Fantastic
FANZINE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS FAN AUTHORITY
FANTASY UNLIMITED
$1.00 IND.
V. 14
COMBAT IS BACK!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!
PLUS
THE STAR-CORPS CONCLUDES...
FEL ON FILM

THE FANTASTIC FANZINE

Okay, what are you jokers doing now!? Last issue was number twelve. This one is number fourteen. "Superstitious reasons." Right. Now we've heard *everything!*

Never let it be said that we stand on tradition here at FF. Anything goes. After all, we're only in it for the fun...and the fame and the beer and the women, especially the women!

But seriously, folks, despite the lapse in numerical sequence, I hope you enjoy this issue. It is our special "tie up all the loose ends" issue. Hopefully, it does just that. You may be wondering just why we have chosen to do this at this particular time. Simple: This is our last issue.

Now, don't get all upset. It won't that bad. Starting in the beginning of March, FF will be starting over at number one, volume two! We'll be making a few changes, such as adding a couple of new columns and a two color cover on a regular basis, and we're raising our cover price to $1.50. Again, don't worry. Our mail order and subscription rates won't change.

The reasoning behind this move is the fact that we're working through a couple of distributors now. As you know, we've been carried by Capital City Distribution since issue number six, and we thank them greatly for this. They gave us our first break. About a month ago, I was contacted by Diamond Distributors who said they were interested in carrying FF also. That gives us two, and Scott Head from Glenwood is *thinking* about it. We must be doing something right.

Now, about those loose ends. Guy Davis' STAR CORPS concludes this issue. Let us know what you thought about this series and about Sandy Schreiber's shiny job. Because of Guy's new job as penciller of the Arrow Comics title THE REALM, he will be absent from our ranks in the future.

FELONIOUS KATT is being pulled out of FF, because we are putting Mark Bloodworth on the third Arrow title NIGHTSTREETS, which will be coming out in July (and just happens to feature one feline crime lord).

We have a special comic appearance by Johnny Gambit, pencilled by Guy Davis and inked by Susan Van Camp and Randy Zimmerman, plus a one page wrap up by Randy and Mark Winfrey.

There is also a one page wrap for WHO IS TINKER TALON by Randy and Sue and one for THE WHEINIS BROTHERS plotted by Rob Knight, written by Stuart Kerr, pencilled by Guy Davis and inked by Mark Bloodworth.

Because of all this loose end tying, the Small Press Report, originally set for five pages is only three, and the Felonious Katt Portfolio is missing. That will return with FF #1.

Next issue we've got the return of CORONA, written by Randy Zimmerman and drawn by Mark Winfrey. You're gonna love it! We also have a story by Chicago native Brad Moore called "Blasphemy", and a fantasy tale by Mike (Heroes Unknown) Kitchen and Cleveland's Pat Sandy. Our cover is by Tim Dzon. Textwise, look for articles on Batman and Captain America by Doug Brown; Taking Another Look, a review column by John P. Parrish; Through Time and Space, our new Doctor Who column by Paul Lukacs; R.H.'s Beyond the Fields We Know; Kitchen's Heroes Unkown; and the new, extended Small Press Report. Te gods, how are we ever gonna fit all this stuff in there!? Very carefully. Nyuk nyuk!

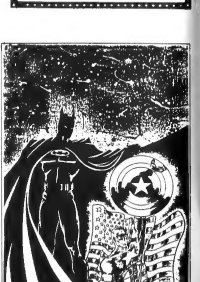
Anyway, I've taken up enough of your time, so dive right on into the rest of the mag and please let us know what you think up about it. If you don't tell me, the best I can do is guess. See ya in March!

-Ye Good Ol' Ed

FANTASTIC FANZINE STAFF BOX!!

Yes, after 13 issues, we're finally putting in a staff box. Hey, we just didn't really think about it before. But, anyway, here it is...

Publisher/Editor...Stuart Kerr
Art Director....Ralph Griffith
Production Asst.....Olas Hanns
Staff Writers....Mike Kitchen
.....Doug Brown
.....John Parrish
.....R.H.
.....Olas Hanns
.....Stuart Kerr
Letterer/typist...Stuart Kerr



Cover art for the NEW FANTASTIC FANZINE #1 penciled and inked by Tim Dzon who inked numerous works for FF this past year, including CORONA, THE STAR CORPS and the great Bloodworth FELONIOUS KATT.

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FANTASTIC FANZINE

INTERVIEWS

ROGER STERN

Roger Stern was one of the guests at the 1985 Mid-Ohio-Con in Mansfield, Ohio. His wife says that he is one of the growing list of regulars that support the Con because it is a benefit for the March-of-Dimes. The following article is a compilation of his comments during his presentation and a personal interview with the author.

Kirk Lroeneveld: Can you tell us what's coming up in the near future of THE AVENGERS?

Roger Stern: Ish #265 will be the last SECRET WARS II crossover. It will be thirty pages, no ads, guest-starring the Fantastic Four and the Silver Surfer. They try to save the Rocky Mountains or what's left of them.

Then, in 267, THE AVENGERS will guest-star Storm, Colossus, Hulk, Iron Man, and Giant Man. It's a long story, the first of three parts, called "Time and Time Again -jain".

268 is called "The Kang Dynasty". It has appearances by the Space Phantom and more Dire Wraiths than you'd ever want to see. The third and final chapter is called "The Once and Future Kang", and it will set up the way that Kang will be from now on.

KG: Will there be several Kangs reintroduced and killed off in AVENGERS 266?

Stern: Well, by the time the storyline is over, there will be only one Kang. In an excited, dramatic voice: After that they're going to sue the Sub-Mariner!

KG: What books do you enjoy reading?

Stern: I only read FANTASTIC FOUR a lot, and DAREDEVIL, THOR, and POWER PACK, SWAMP THING, and a couple of independants, but that runs hot and cold.

KG: Which artists do you enjoy working with?

Stern: It depends on the circumstances. Working Marvel-style, how long does it take to see my plots turn into artwork? That depends on the circumstances and the artist. Two years ago, I did an AVENGERS ANNUAL with Steve Ditko penciling. It was forty pages. I sent the plot in and they said that Steve wouldn't get to this for a couple of days because he was on jury duty. Steve Ditko on jury duty is a strange thought, ladies and gentlemen. But, a week later, we had the first twenty pages. A week later, we had the second twenty pages. He did forty pages in like about two weeks. And they were great!

But then, I've had other artists where I'd send the plot in and months go by, seasons change, presidents are impeached, elected, War and Peace, and worlds collide. And suddenly, here's a page. It depends.

Ideally, it's about two or three weeks before you start getting pages back. (No, I don't know which trial Steve Ditko was on, but I believe the guy was found guilty.)

KG: What does a typical plot that you write sound like?

Stern: When the Avengers get back from Limbo after finding Kang, the they discover that there are two demonstrations in front of the Avengers Mansion, because word has leaked out that the Sub-Mariner has become an Avenger. There's a big demonstration of people who are outraged because this guy has occupied New York City twice and everything. There's a counter-demonstration of guys who are members of the VFW and environmental-

ists who remember that Namor is a great guy who saved the boys at Anzio, he liberated Dachy over here, he did this. he did that and stuff. So there's this counter demonstration going on.

Moonstone (the female version) has broken out of jail and, disguised as a mourning widow, is working her way through the anti-Namor crowd, stirring them up. "Uh, my husband was a longshoreman. Namor broke up the dock. He drowned. So now I'm a widow and my children are starving, etc." and the crowd gets real ugly.

There are cops all around, because the protest has grown. Fifth Avenue is blocked off for two whole blocks on either side of the mansion. The anti-Namor guys are along the Oak part of the mansion and the pro-Namor guys are along the front. The mob gets real ugly and they start throwing rocks and bottles. They come charging the pro-Namor faction.

Captain America and Captain Marvel come out and try to break it up, talk to the crowd and try to reason with them. Moonstone starts slipping away from the crowd, because she doesn't want to be recognized; they'll throw her in the can. She blows up a water hydrant and water is spewing everywhere. People are running in panic. An FBI man, Derek Freeman, who was in the crossover beginning for X-FACTOR (the black FBI agent), sees a shot of the disguised Moonstone on TV and says, "It's he her!" He radios the Avengers and heads there in a helicopter. He gets the authorities in: "Moonstone is in the area. We're going to get her." He radios the Avengers and warns them. All this heck is going on.

Moonstone is slipping through the panicking crowd and this helicopter is coming in, so she blows the rotor off as another diversion. As the helicopter swings around out of control, the Sub-Mariner leaps up out of the Avengers mansion, grabs a hold of the tail section of the helicopter and tries to stabilize it, but it's too out of control. It goes out of sight into Central Park. There's a big explosion with flames shooting up. Captain Marvel goes zooming into the park after it.

Moonstone is really pleased with herself, so the Wasp comes zooming in zapping around her. Moonstone phases through the pavement. The Wasp blows a hole in the pavement, swoops down under to a utility tunnel carrying gas mains, electrical and telephone cables and stuff like that. She can't find Moonstone hiding around the corner. She zaps into her costume, blinds the Wasp and starts firing at her. The Wasp goes flying around blind, avoiding these power blasts.

Hercules has likely run out of the mansion by this point and helps Captain America calm the crowd. The ground erupts, manhole covers pop, shoot up out of the pavement. The Black Knight knows that the Wasp has gone underground after Moonstone and he freaks out. He drops down a manhole and charges after her to se. what's going on. Hercules stops a truck from falling over on some people.

There's smoke everywhere in this tunnel. The Black Knight is trying to find his way through it. Moonstone comes flying out, sees him, fires a power blast at him. He catches it point first on his sword. It sort of crackles around on his sword and stays there, lighting up his sword. He looks at it and says, "This never happened before!" Moonstone says, "A trick sword won't do you any good. I'll stop you like I did the Wasp." Wrong thing to say!

He swings his sword. The energy goes zapping back at Moonstone, knocks her silly. She gets her up by the hair and demands, "What did you do to the Wasp?" The Wasp comes flying around and "It's okay, I'm okay." In firing at the Wasp, she had hit a gas main, causing it to blow up. The Wasp was small and she rode the shockwave of the thing. But then she had stopped to turn the gas off and put out the fire.

So, they've got Moonstone. Back up at street level, Hercules is worried about the Sub-Mariner and

continued next page

the explosion and everything. "Let's go get him." All of a sudden, these two figures come out of the park, silhouetted by the flame flames. It's Captain Marvel helping the FBI agent, and the Sub-Mariner carrying the pilot. They turn them over to the paramedics, and the crowd is going, "Huh, what is this? He saved them!"

This one guy says, "Maybe it was all a trick...to make us think he saved him." And the FBI guy say says, "Are you crazy enough to think this was staged?...That we'd crash a copter just so that the Sub-Mariner would look good? Are you crazy? Do I look crazy?"

The End.

KG: How hard was it to coordinate with the Secret Wars crossovers? Were you forced to do certain things?

Stern: The Secret Wars crossovers were set up months in advance, with a big chart that says that you will cross over here and here and here, but not here, because that needs to happen before this. I've heard that that was one of the problems with DC's CRISIS... that they'd say, we want to cross over here, and someone would say, no. And they'd say, but we need this and this to have happened by here, and they'd still say, no!

Actually, the first crossover was with the Thing for only a page. And the second one was only a page or two. And, finally, the last one has him in it for half the book or so, so it was a progressive thing. It wasn't hard at all.

What lies ahead for Doctor Strange? I don't know; I'm doing a graphic novel about him, but it has no relationship with the regular book. How come Doctor Strange doesn't go monthly? 'Cause they can't find anyone to draw him fast enough...

Do I confir with Steve Martin on the Avengers books? We keep in touch; we talk every month or so. You know, I'll call him up or he'll call me up or something. And we're talking about doing a crossover with the Annuals this upcoming summer. The story will start in the AVENGERS ANNUAL and end in the WEST COAST AVENGERS ANNUAL or vice versa, but we haven't mapped anything out yet. Crossovers we we were thinking of doing on an annual basis...and since we have Annuals...why not!?

How many months am I ahead in writing? #264 has just come out, and I'm half done with the scripting of 269. So, I am about four or five months ahead on scripting and six or seven months ahead on plotting, or whatever that works out to be.

Yes, Tom Palmer and John Buscema are going to continue on THE AVENGERS. I like them a lot and I like having them on the book.

Is there going to be a Starfox limited series? I don't know. A lot of people have been asking for it. Maybe. If I come up with enough stories for one and enough time and an artist who might do it. Otherwise, we'll see bits and pieces of him in THE AVENGERS: "Meanwhile, out in space..."

Will the Sub-Mariner stay with the Avengers? We'll see how that comes out. As far as I know, the Sub-Mariner is an Avenger and that is where he's going to stay.

Will She-Hulk ever come back to the Avengers? She never left them, she is still a member. Will she be back on a regular basis? I can't say too much without giving away things that will happen in the FANTASTIC FOUR, and John Byrne will tell you about those...if he wants to!

If the Avengers were created in 1965 and it's now 1985, why aren't they twenty years older? 'Cause twenty years haven't passed. Count up all the days that have ever appeared in the book, and exclude any topical references, 'cause they don't count.

Kier Gromewell is a 30 year old TV professional who enjoys comics as a hobby. He has written articles for a variety of magazines and newspapers, including FANTASTIC FANZINE and THE COMIC BUYER'S GUIDE, and others.

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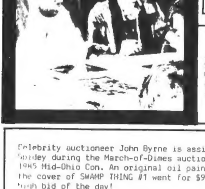
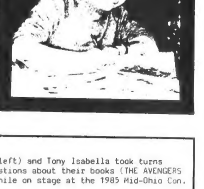


Terry Austin signs some of his work for a fan at the 1985 Mid-Ohio Con held November 9-10 in Mansfield, OH.



John Byrne and Frank Miller signed books at the 1985 Mid-Ohio Con. Miller had just flown all night getting to the March-of-Dimes fundraiser.

Celebrity auctioneer John Byrne is assisted by Wendy during the March-of-Dimes auction at the 1985 Mid-Ohio Con. An original oil painting from the cover of SWAMP THING #1 went for $900, the high bid of the day!

Roger Stern (left) and Tony Isabella took turns answering questions about their books (THE AVENGERS and HAWKMAN while on stage at the 1985 Mid-Ohio Con.

MID OHIO CON 1985

HE'S BEEN UP ALL NIGHT.

THE CORONER'S REPORT STATED THAT JOHNNY AND BILLY HAD BEEN SHOT AT ONE POINT, THEN MOVED TO WHERE THEY WERE EVENTUALLY FOUND. HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR A CLUE AS TO WHERE THAT LOCATION WAS, HE FOUND ONE.

AMONG THE PERSONAL ITEMS FOUND ON THE BODIES WERE TWO UNSET DIAMONDS, FEL MADE THE CONNECTION, THOUGH KATT AND ASSOCIATES PROTECTED MANY JEWELLERS, ONLY ONE COULD HAVE CALLED UPON THEM TO COME DOWN WITHOUT LEAVING WORD OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS...

THE ONE RUN BY A MAN JOHNNY AND BILLY HAD KNOWN ALL THEIR LIVES; A MAN WHOSE BROTHER'S LIFE WAS SAVED BY FELONIOUS ALMOST 30 YEARS AGO; A MAN WHO WAS ONE OF ONLY *SIX* PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO KNEW THAT THE OWNER AND PRESIDENT OF KATT AND ASSOCIATES IS, INDEED, A *CAT*.

PULL DOWN THE SHADE, SHAPIRO.
MR. KATT!

DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHNATHAN AND WILLIAM?
YES, I SAW IT ON THE NEWS LAST NIGHT, I'M VERY SO-
I KNOW THEY WERE KILLED HERE, SHAPIRO, WHY DID YOU SET THEM UP?

SET THEM UP? I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

DON'T DO THIS, ZACH! YOU *KNEW* THEM! THEY WERE LIKE SONS TO YOU. WHY DID YOU SET THEM UP? WHO HAD THEM HIT?
THEY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE KILLED, ONLY DELIVER A MESSAGE TO YOU. I WAS PROMISED!
WHO PROMISED!? *WHO DID THIS!?*

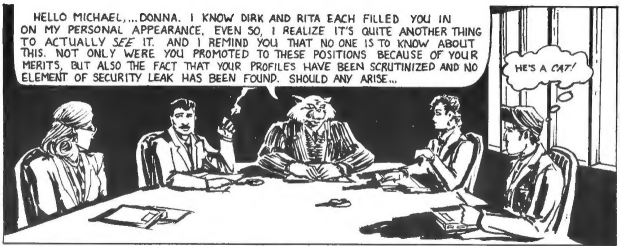
HE CALLS HIMSELF *OVERULE*. HE THREATENED TO KILL ME IF I DIDN'T GO ALONG!

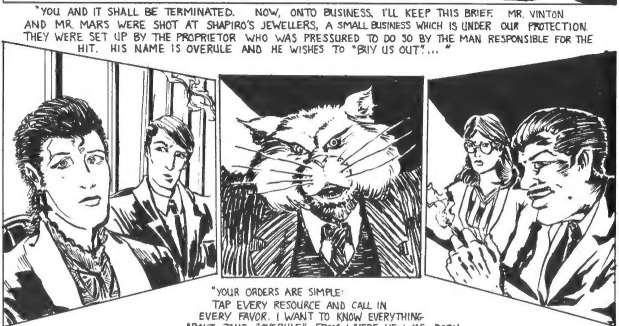
AND HE WAS THE ONE WHO HAD THEM KILLED?
YES.

I WAS TOLD TO CALL THEM IN SO THEY COULD DELIVER A MESSAGE TO YOU.
YES.
I GOT THE MESSAGE, YOU SAY HE *THREATENED* YOU?

ALRIGHT, YOU JUST KEEP PLAYING ALONG. DO WHATEVER HE SAYS.
DON'T WORRY, ZACH, I'LL GET US OUT OF THIS.
THE SAME WAY YOU GOT MY BROTHER OUT?
HOPEFULLY WITH A LITTLE MORE... FINESSE.

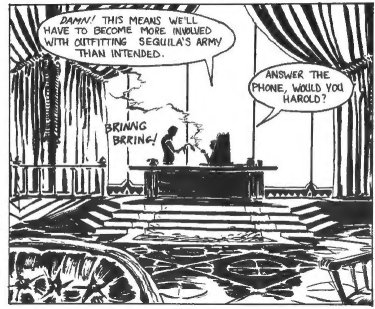
KLIK
KLIK
WHAT THE—!?
A CAT? WEARING A TUNIC?
OKAY... SO MAYBE BEING UP ALL NIGHT WORRYING ABOUT BLACK DAHLIA MAKING THAT DRUG BUST ALONE COULD CAUSE MINOR HALLUCINATIONS...
BUT A SEVEN FOOT TALL CAT IN A TUNIC!?
LAST TIME I START A DAY WITHOUT COFFEE
FRANKLIN OFFICE TOWERS. HEADQUARTERS OF KATT AND ASSOCIATES.
SORRY I'M LATE, PEOPLE. I WAS DOING A LITTLE LEGWORK ON OUR PROBLEM.


HELLO MICHAEL,...DONNA. I KNOW DIRK AND RITA EACH FILLED YOU IN ON MY PERSONAL APPEARANCE, EVEN SO, I REALIZE IT'S QUITE ANOTHER THING TO ACTUALLY SEE IT. AND I REMIND YOU THAT NO ONE IS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS. NOT ONLY WERE YOU PROMOTED TO THESE POSITIONS BECAUSE OF YOUR MERITS, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT YOUR PROFILES HAVE BEEN SCRUTINIZED AND NO ELEMENT OF SECURITY LEAK HAS BEEN FOUND. SHOULD ANY ARISE...
HE'S A CAT!


"YOU AND IT SHALL BE TERMINATED. NOW, ONTO BUSINESS. I'LL KEEP THIS BRIEF. MR. VINTON AND MR. MARS WERE SHOT AT SHAPIRO'S JEWELLERS, A SMALL BUSINESS WHICH IS UNDER OUR PROTECTION. THEY WERE SET UP BY THE PROPRIETOR WHO WAS PRESSURED TO DO SO BY THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE HIT. HIS NAME IS OVERULE AND HE WISHES TO "BUY US OUT"..."
"YOUR ORDERS ARE SIMPLE:
TAP EVERY RESOURCE AND CALL IN
EVERY FAVOR. I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT THIS "OVERULE", FROM WHERE HE WAS BORN
TO WHERE HE IS NOW. THAT'S IT PEOPLE, LET'S GET TO WORK!"

BOSS?
YES, DIRK?
DON'T KNOW IF YOU SAW THIS THIS MORNING'S PAPER. I KNOW WE DON'T DEAL IN DRUGS, BUT AFTER LAST NIGHT, SOMEBODY'S HURTIN'.
MIGHT BE USEFUL INFORMATION.
City Lights
BLACK DAHLIA stops
30,000,000 Dollar
narcotics shipment
I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. SOMEONE IS CERTAINLY HURTING. VERY BADLY INDEED.

THAT IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT, HAROLD. BECAUSE OF THAT MEDDLESOME VIGILANTE THE ENTIRE TIMETABLE HAS BEEN SET BACK.
YOU THINK SHE KNOWS ABOUT OUR DEAL WITH SENOR SEGUILA?
NO, THE DAHLIA IS QUITE UNAWARE OF OUR SOUTHAMERICAN FRIEND. I BELIEVE LAST NIGHT'S AFFAIR WAS MERELY DUE TO A LEAK. A JUNKIE PERHAPS WHO'D HEARD TOO MUCH PROMISE FROM A DRY OPERATOR...


DAMN! THIS MEANS WE'LL HAVE TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH OUTFITTING SEGUILA'S ARMY THAN INTENDED.
ANSWER THE PHONE, WOULD YOU HAROLD?
BRRING BRRING!

HELLO? YES. HOLD ON.

YES? PUT HIM ON, SHARON. GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. SHAPIRO.
DON'T 'GOOD AFTERNOON' ME, HAWTHORNE. DO YOU KNOW WHO VISITED ME THIS MORNING?

I HAVE AN IDEA.
I'M SURE YOU DO. WELL... I TOLD HIM ABOUT OVERULE.
I SEE.
HE'S PLENTY MAD, HAWTHORNE. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE FINDS OUT WHO REALLY HAD THOSE BOYS KILLED.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, MR. SHAPIRO?
OUT! I WANT OUT! YOUR THREATS DON'T MATTER ANYMORE. AND I WON'T BETRAY HIM, AGAIN! GOODBYE, HAWTHORNE.
HAROLD.
CLICK
YES SIR?

MR. SHAPIRO HAS PLAYED HIS HAND. UNFORTUNATELY, IT WASN'T A VERY GOOD ONE. I WANT YOU TO CONTACT OVERULE. ON YOUR WAY OUT SHARON WILL HAVE AN ENVELOPE WHICH CONTAINS HIS INSTRUCTIONS.
DELIVER IT TO HIM AND RETURN HERE, UNDERSTOOD?
YESSIR.

THE UPPER EAST SIDE. A CONVERTED WAREHOUSE WHICH SERVES AS THE STUDIO APARTMENT OF MALCOLM BRAYTON...
FREELANCE COMMERCIAL ARTIST AND WRITER/ILLUSTRATOR OF THE "BLACK DAHLIA" COMIC BOOK... THE CITY'S VERY OWN DARK FLOWER OF JUSTICE.
MAL, THIS IS SHANTEL. IF YOU'RE THERE, PICK UP... OH WELL, I'M TAKING BLOSSOM SHOPPING. CALL YOU TONIGHT. LOVE YA! :) LUKE
THIS IS FANTASTIC!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT REALLY WAS A CAT-MAN I SAW THIS MORNING!
DARK ROOM
KEEP OUT
THIS MEANS YOU BLOSSOM!!
SHANTEL WILL FLIP WHEN SHE SEES THIS!
BUT... BEFORE SHE DOES, I THINK I'LL DO A LITTLE INVESTIGATING ON THIS. I'VE GOT SOME OTHER PIX OF THAT ALLEY AND...
WITH THIS LENS, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO... SEE... AHHH!... SHAPIRO'S JEWELLERS DELIVERY ENTRANCE! THAT'S IT.
OKAY, SHAPIRO...
LET'S FIND OUT WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT MY PHOTOGENIC FELINE.
TO BE CONTINUED IN... NIGHT STREETS #1

SILVER AGE DC'S AS AN INVESTMENT

Today in comicdom's large silver-age market, the best investment lies within most DC titles issued between 1956 and 1962. Now, there are some of you who are reading this that think I am way off. You're probably thinking, "X-MEN is where the best investment is today." Well, X-MEN is a very popular title, but is slowing down compared to silver-age DC's. This is because demand does not exceed availability, as it does with DC's silver-age books.

Today, many of these books are hard to find in very fine or better condition. Because of this, dealers have a hard time keeping them in stock, causing prices to rise. Many dealers will sell silver-age DC's at or above guide because of the demand. That is why I made the statement that many Dc titles in the silver-age are the best investment. The values show no sign of slowing down. I believe, as do many dealers, that prices will continue to rise as time goes on.

Which titles should a collector/investor put his money into? The best moving titles are ADVENTURE COMICS (#247-380), BATMAN (#100-171), and DETECTIVE COMICS (#225-310). In the case of ADVENTURE COMICS, Legion appearances are in greater demand than other issues in the series. Other good titles are ACTION COMICS (#200-320), BRAVE AND THE BOLD (#1-54), FLASH (#105-140), GREEN LANTERN (#1-20), JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (#1-25), MYSTERY IN SPACE (#50-80), SHOWCASE (#1-44) , SUPERBOY (#35-100), SUPERMAN (#100-170), and WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (#80-130). Titles that are stable, but show promise are: CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, JIMMY OLSEN, LOIS LANE, RIP HUNTER, SEA DEVILS, and the perennial favorites, AQUAMAN, THE ATOM, and HAWKMAN.

For those of you who have not yet begun to collect silver-age DC's, a word of advice: Choose one or two titles and work your way up to others. Don't just go for the most expensive books. The rate at which most of them are rising in value, if you invest in the cheaper books, ensures that you will soon have a 'rich' collection of DC's. It may be hard to find these gems, but don't give up too easily. Keep at it! Sooner or later you will find what you are looking for. Good luck and happy hunting.

CLASSIC FANZINES OF THE 60'S AND 70'S

It was my search for artwork by Frank Brunner and Jeff Jones that led me to collecting fanzines from the late 60's and early 70's. Most were slick, offset beauties, and were mostly by the then up-and-coming Brunner or Jones. These 'zines, many of which are now classics and command collectors prices, were the proving ground for many of today's hottest professional artists and writers: Mike Kaluta, Berni Wrightson, Jerry Orbway, Jan Strnad, John Byrne, Steve Hickman, George Barr, Kenneth Smith, Jeff Jones, and Frank Brunner, just to name a few.

The best remembered and possibly the most handsome of the fanzines of the early 70's was Adam Malin and Jan Herman's INFINITY. INFINITY sported gorgeous covers, both color and black and white, on coated cardboard with beautiful typography in a landscape-sized format. Adam Malin spearheaded the project which ran from 1970 to 1973, covering five issues in one volume and three in a volume two classification. Issue two continued some of the first work by Brunner, along with the first ever collaboration with Frank Frazetta! In all, INFINITY spotlighted many "firsts" with interviews including Brunner, Jeff Jones, Richard Corben, Bruce Jones, Jan Warren, Bill Gaines, and Galactus(!), as well as running covers and strips by all of these giants.

I'LL BE DAMNED by Mark Feldman was another classic 'zine containing superb pro artwork with slick coated stock covers, some in color by Wrightson and Ken Smith. I'LL BE DAMNED was a smash success that ran five issues at 1500 per!

With the release of INFINITY, Robert Gerstenhaber, a friend of Adam Malin, decided to enter the fan field with a stunning 'zine known as REALITY. His first cover was by Jeff Jones and it was a knockout! Inside was an interview and more art by Jones, a strip by Kaluta that was originally meant for WEB OF HORROR, and one by Brunner. REALITY only ran to issue two, sadly, before folding.

For the second issue's Larry Todd cover, Gerstenhaber had utilized a revolutionary new roto-gravure photo method that eliminated dot screen patterns. Originally selling for $2, REALITY one and two are now $15-20 apiece.

Jeff Jones was in high demand in the late 60's and early 70's for his covers. Many fanzines were devoted to Robert E. Howard and Edgar Rice Burroughs, and Jones did a cover painting for STFA #1 in 1970, a 'zine devoted to Howard and EC Comics. The titles of the Burroughs fanzines were certainly clever: ERB-DOM, ERB-IVORE, ERB NEWSLETTER, BURROUGHS BULLETIN, THE JASOOMIAN, THE BARSOOMIAN, and a few mimeo 'zines of small print runs. Jones handled the cover chores for most of these as well.

Inspired by these small press gems, Bruce Jones, Berni Wrightson, Mike Kaluta, and Jeff Jones decided to create an all-strip magazine, and the incredible ABYSS was born. ABYSS was cover to cover black and white gothic, spidery sci-fi and humorous horror by four of the leading pro fantasy artists. Originally selling for $2, ABYSS with its 1000 print run commands $35 per issue now.

The old fanzines of this period were mostly art-oriented with portfolios and strips by both pros and talented fans. Here is a partial list of those 'zines that have entered "classic" status (in no particular order): ABYSS #1, SERAPHIM #5, INFINITY #2-5, and volume two #1-3, STYX #2. THIS IS LEGEND, ANOMALY, I'LL BE DAMNED #1-4, PHASE #1, SCREAM DOOR, HEMOGOBLIN, TRUMPET, AMRA, ERB-IVORE, ERB-DOM, REH-SUPA, CHRONICLE #1-5 (John Byrne), IMAGINATION, COSMIC CIRCUS, and BATTLE FLAG.

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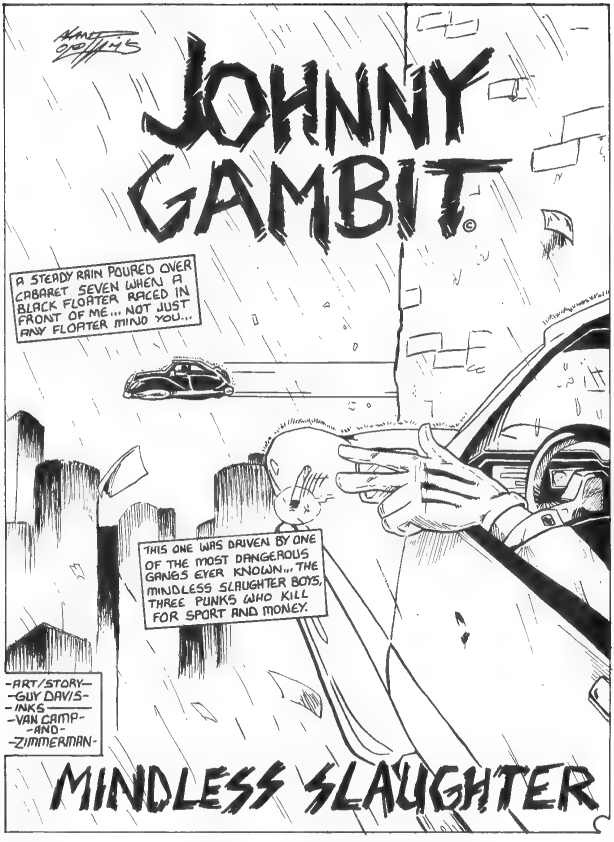
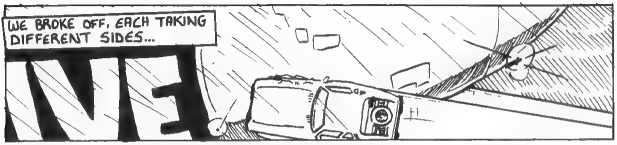
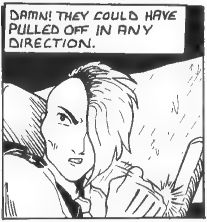

JOHNNY GAMBIT©
A STEADY RAIN POURED OVER CABARET SEVEN WHEN A BLACK FLOATER RACED IN FRONT OF ME... NOT JUST ANY FLOATER MIND YOU...
THIS ONE WAS DRIVEN BY ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS GANGS EVER KNOWN... THE MINDLESS SLAUGHTER BOYS, THREE PUNKS WHO KILL FOR SPORT AND MONEY.
-ART/STORY-
-GUY DAVIS-
-INKS-
-VAN CAMP-
-AND-
-ZIMMERMAN-
MINDLESS SLAUGHTER

OH... WHO AM I? THE NAME'S JOHNNY GAMBIT, PRIVATE DETECTIVE. I'M THE GUY HIRED TO BRING THESE PIGS IN...
...AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
THEIR FLOATER WAS AN OLD TYPE 40., SOME CALL THEM CLASSICS. I CALL THEM SLOW...
CATCHING UP WITH THEM WOULD BE NO PROBLEM...
STOPPING THEM WAS ANOTHER STORY...
MINDLESS SLAUGHTER WAS NO JOKE, EACH ONE OF THEM HAD A MURDEROUS SKILL ALL THEIR OWN AND TOGETHER THEY WERE DEVESTATING...
BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M NOT EXACTLY DEFENSELESS MYSELF...
WELL...THE GANGS LEADER, "BLOCK" FINALLY SPOTTED ME AND HE'S HIGH TAILING IT TO THE SKY...

HANG ON YOU GUYS, GAMBIT'S TAILIN' US! HEH... SO YOU WANNA PLAY, EH?
WELL WE'LL JUST "UP" THE STAKES!
"BLOCK" WAS TAKING IT INTO PRETTY ROUGH WEATHER, IF I DIDN'T GET HIM, MOTHER NATURE WOULD.
WE WERE SO BUSY TRYING TO KNOCK EACH OTHER OUT OF THE SKY, WE ALMOST DIDN'T NOTICE THE AD-BLIMP RACING TOWARDS US...


WE BROKE OFF, EACH TAKING DIFFERENT SIDES...

ONCE PAST HOWEVER THE SLAUGHTERS WERE NO WERE TO BE FOUND...


DAMN! THEY COULD HAVE PULLED OFF IN ANY DIRECTION.

BUT I DIDN'T GLOAT OVER IT FOR LONG...

MINDLESS SLAUGHTER WANTED ME AS MUCH AS I WANTED THEM.

IN FACT, THEY'RE STARTING TO PLAY ROUGH.

I GOT 'EM! I GOT 'EM!!

GOOD, MASK! HANG ON TO HIM, WE'LL TAKE JOHNNY FOR A LITTLE RIDE. HEH-HEH.

MASK HAD A GOOD GRIP ON MY FLOATER...
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GO WHERE THEY WANTED.

GET BACK MASK, I GETS HIM GOOD!
IF I COULD PUT INTO ONE WORD WHAT WENT THROUGH MY MIND, I'D PROBABLY GET ARRESTED...
I SURVIVED, BUT MY GUN WAS NOW FLYING OVER CABARET SEVEN. NEEDLESS TO SAY, I WAS PISSED.
HEY, REICH! YOU MISSED 'EM!
AW DON'T WORRY, I GETS 'IM THIS TIME!
CLACK!
I REACHED INTO MY JACKET FOR MY PEN...
I FIGURED HE WOULD BE A BETTER SHOT THIS TIME, SO I ACTED FAST.
WHICH I THEN JAMMED INTO THE MECHANICS OF MASKS' ARM.

IT WAS TIME I TOOK OVER THE DRIVING!
I SHIFTED INTO HIGH AND HEADED DOWN TO THE CITY!
WHAT!? I'VE LOST CONTROL! MASK, LET GO! LET GO!!
I CAN'T! HE JAMMED MY ARM!!!
CLICK! CLICK!!
WELL THAT'S THE BREAKS OF HAVING ONLY ONE.
I HEADED TOWARDS ONE OF THE INDUSTRIAL SMOKE STACKS...
REICH! SHOOT HIM! SHOOT HIM!!
SCHWEINHUND!! I DROPPED THE CARTRIDGE!!
WELL AFTER ALL...
THE POSTER DID SAY 'DEAD OR ALIVE'.
FIN

"I HEADED BACK TO MY OFFICE, REWARD MONEY IN HAND."
"THE BOUNTY WAS GOING TO COME IN HANDY. I WAS RUNNING LOW ON SUPPLIES- RENT, INK AND THE LIKE."
"I WAS JUST THINKING HOW GOOD IT FELT TO HAVE A LITTLE FAME, A LITTLE RECOGNITION..."
"WHEN SUDDENLY..."
BLAM
"WHAT!? THAT AIN'T NO DAME!"
DUH, IT LOOKED LIKE A DAME.
YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CERCE'S SIX!
SMACK
OW. GEE, I'M SORRY, BOSS.
AN' LOOK AT THIS!
DUH, SORRY.
WE'RE NOT EVEN IN THE RIGHT ISSUE!
CHECK OUT CORONA
by RANDY ZIMMERMAN
MARK WINFREY
NEXT IN: THE ALL NEW FANTASTIC FANZINE
NUMBER ONE VOLUME TWO

SMALL PRESS REPORT

Welcome to the first semi-expanded installment of the Small Press Report. As many of you should know, Kevan Collier, publisher of FANDOM TIMES, FANDOM JOURNAL, FAN SCENE et al, has called it quits because of the amount of time these projects were keeping him from his family. For this we cannot possibly begrudge him. For several years I spent a great deal of his time on his publications, devoting himself to the furtherment of the hobby artform called small press.

However, his abscence left a great void. There was no longer a central ground, a meeting place for small pressers to display their wares and find out what other publishers, artists, writers were doing. This is our initial motivation for expanding our Small Press Report. Without a central and convenient place to get together, small pressers would begin to lose touch with each other and this delicate but devoted network would slowly - maybe not so slowly - break up.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized how large a task it would be to fill Kevin's shoes, especially at this time when I am trying to develop my own small comic book company, Arrow Comics. This was taking up a large portion of my time, but I decided to allocate about five pages of FF to the Small Press Report and do my part to keep the network together.

So and behold! Rising like a phoenix above the ashes (sorry, I couldn't help myself), comes SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION from the mind and typewriter of C&T Graphics' Tim Corrigan. I believe that, if anyone can do it, Tim can. I just got the first issue od SPCE the other day and it looks good. I subscribed and plan to do advertising in it in the future. I thank that you should consider doing about how much I recommend it.

SPCE is similar to Kevin's publications in many ways. After all, why mess with a good format? It features news, reviews and ads about small press pubs, plus the future it will include various articles, interviews and columns. Tim has the ability and the drive to do it right, so let's rally around this central figure and not break up into several small groups. There's power in numbers after all.

All this good news leaves me with a problem, however. You see, I don't want to compete with Tim, so I'm going to have to take a different direction with SPR. So, this issue's installment is basically a hodge podge of odds and ends going on in small press in the last few months. Starting next issue, news and reviews will not be the main features. I would like to do in-depth articles and interviews focusing on only a few topics each issue.

The only thing I can add to this is: LONG LIVE SMALL PRESS!

MAP HAZARD #1 50¢ plus a stamp (Montage Press, 265 N. Harlan, Lakewood CO 80226)

MAP HAZARD is a 12 page mini with full color covers, featuring a 10 page story starring Map Hazard. Hired by the CIA, Map sets out to discover the secret behind a rash of diplomatic killings going on, only to run into a crazy man and a bunch of robots. Not your standard storyline, but an intertwining story of a P.I. for hire with just the right amount of humor in all the right places. A good deal for 50¢, considerin it has color covers and good story and art by Richard Florence.

VERY SMALL COMICS #3
SERIOUS COMICS #15 & 16
25¢ ea. plus stamp/C&T Graphics
49 Walcox St., Rochester NY 14607

VERY SMALL COMICS #3 features Arnold Snerp A.K.A. the Acorn Kid, who runs away from home and right smack dab into trouble. Hitchhiking, Arnold is picked up by a counterfeiter named Jack and his girlfriend Mable. Mable takes a liking to Arnold and convinces Jack to let him stay with them. After they meet up with Jack's partner, the cops arrive. With Arnold as hostage, the criminals are granted free passage. However, once again, Jack discovers that he's holding an acorn and not a kid. A funny little mini from Tim Corrigan.

SERIOUS COMICS #15 & 16 are both 8 page minies also by Tim Corrigan. Mightyguy returns from his elephant hunt and discovers that his love, Betty Hogsome, has quit her job as secretary for C&T Comics. Donning his guise as Mike McZiltcho, he goes out onto the streets looking for her. Little does he know she has been recruited by his old nemesis, Gunkface. If you don't read any of the other comics from C&T, read the Mightyguy series appearing monthly in Serious Comics.

MONSTERS AND MUTANTS #0/25¢ plus stamp/Dark Horse Comix/2808 Demel Apt. 21, Louisville, KY 40214

Publisher Jeff Gaither and Michael Roden of Thru Black Holes Comix are the team on this all art, 8-page mini. It's printed on green card stock and features wierd caricatures that I hope are figments of Gaither and Roden's imaginations. The art is excellent and I would have to say that Gaither's M&M series is one of the best new wave minies published today. Definately recomended for those with an artistic pallet.

APC TALES #9/25¢ plus stamp/
APC Publications/3304 Feltz Ave.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

APC TALES #9 features Robert Seymour, Secret Agent, and his pal, the Flaming Hot Dog. This is a story about the state of the junk food industry today. Bob and the Dog are out to stop the BBFD from putting real food in the cafeterias of America's schools. Oh the horror! I can't stand itz no more! The artwork is by Dan Structural, concept and story by Chris Howard, and layouts by Sean Cliver.

THE BEST OF FANTASY CORNER #1
$1.25/Susan Lattanzio/97 Union Street, Rockville, CT 06066

This is a collection of reprints from the COLLECTOR'S CLUB NEWSLETTER, consisting mostly of short stories and poems. Some really good material in this one. Includes material from the Fantasy Corner columns from CCN #2 to #44. 36 pages of xerox'ed pages with light green cover.

ZOT 10¢ is the latest mini comic from Not Available. It marks the first appearance of a character from a color comic in a mini comic. The script and layouts are by Scott McCloud, creator of ZOT! and the art is by Matt Feazell in his stick-figure style. The first printing has been completed and the book lists no price on its cover because it is only available by trade to artists and publishers in the small press network. Retailers won't get ZOT 10¢ until March when Eclipse will solicit orders in it its monthly retailer order form. This will be the first time a major publisher has distributed a mini comic

ANTISOCIALMAN #6 came out just in time for Christmas, and it's a good thing too, because it's a Christmas story. With a story by Walt Lockley and art by Feazell, it guest-stars Cynicalman, Spud and Ernie, and ASM's girlfriend, Edie Haskell.

Art Gallery patrons in Winston-Salem, NC will be viewing Cynicalman and Antisocialman original ar art. Pages from ASM #6 and CM #8 are part of an exhibit of Comic Art at Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive, Winston-Salem NC. Other artists in the exhibit include Bo and Scott Hampton, Rob Garden and Dick Moores. The exhibit runs through February 9th.

NOT AVAILABLE COMICS, Box 5803, Raleigh NC 27650.

Phantasm Press has moved (again)! Effective January 1, 86, our address will be: 412 South Harlem, Lakewood CO 80226, hopefully to stay for a while.

Just released, our first mini in almost a year- HAP HAZARD #3 by Richard Florence. The ever-popular Hap is back in a 12 page mini with gorgeous color covers. See Hap tangle with killer robots on the rampage. HAP HAZARD #1-3 are available for 50¢ and a stamp each. Also, haunt your local comic shop for COMES by Matt Howarth, our second full size comic. Available by mail for $1.00 ppd.

TREKKER'S LOG is a new small press fanzine dedicated completely to Star Trek and its fans. TREKKER'S LOG will be a digest-sizrd 'zine with the first issue scheduled for January or February 1986 release. The mag is being published by Jeffrey A Cooke and will feature short stories, artwork, cartoons, comics, poems, news, information and photos. Contributors are needed to fill out the first issue. TREKKER'S LOG has a $2.00 cover, but printed contributors will receive a free copy. Cooke has phased out all his other projects to concentrate on this new fanzine. Watch future issues of FANTASTIC FANZINE for updated news and advertising for TREKKER'S LOG. Issue one will have a limited press run with copies numbered by hand. It is expected to be a fast seller. Reserve a copy now! Jeffrey A. Cooke, 2532 Fountain St., Muskegon MI 49441.

Dolphin-Moon Press has two books available at this time. GUEST CHECK #1 is a 32 page, 7x10 offset anthology comic sporting a full color glossy cover. Included within are works by Willis, Foster, John E., Ace Backwords and others. It's available for $3.50 ppd. PIPE CONFIRMATION is a 12 page digest with hand stamped blue offset cover. A special "alchohol and drug issue", it includes the first annual Dolphin-Moon summer jam with such artists as Willis, Strongbow, XNO and others. $1.50 ppd. Two titles are in the works for spring release. GUEST CHECK #2 which will be up to 24 offset pages and STICK DETERMINATION, a mate to PIPE.

PO Box 22262, Baltimore MD 21203.

Jeff Gaither's Dark Horse Comics announces a change in price and title for his MORONS, MONSTERS AND MUTANT series. With #4 it will be called simply MONSTERS AND MUTANTS and will be 50¢ and a stamp or 75¢ postpaid. M & M #4 is by Gaither and Micha Michael Roden. Offset printing on green linen stock paper. Limated edition of 100.

M&M #5...Gaither and Bill Shut
M&M #6...with Bob X
M&M #7...with Allen Freeman
Coming soon, Dark Horse Comix, 2808 DeMel Apt. 21, Louisville, KY 40214.

Jason Marsden from Media Empire has announced that ME is planning a science fiction-comics magazine called SCIENCE FICTION SHOWCASE. SFS will feature text stories, strips, spot illos and ads and will be 8½" by 11". Contributors are needed. Write: Media Empire, 701 Emerson, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801.

Awesome Publications' Tim Belgarde is starting a newszine tentatively called either WORLD OF SMALL PRESS or SELF-PUBLISHER MONTHLY. It will be a 16 page digest sized mag including reviews by Chris Miller, 5 pages of ad space and 6 pages of news. Belgarde has set an initial print run of 200. Send review copies or art/text submissions to: Tim Belgarde, PO Box 574, Rolette, ND 58366.

Publisher creator Wade Busby announces the release of BRIGADE COMICS #5. In it the state energy administration chairman is victim to an accident at Manford Atomic Plant due to his own meddling. He sets out on a rampage to kill the those who witnessed the event. It is up to the Brigade and the Sentry to stop him. Busby wants original, short, non-continuing back up stories in any genre- preferably 6¾x9¾ reduced copies on 8½x11 paper- for publication in BRIGADE #6 in February.

Read SMALL PRESS REPORT every issue of Fantastic Fanzine!!

ANNOUNCING A FANDOM PREGNANCY! A new small press fanzine dedicated solely to STAR TREK has been conceived and is now in the process of birth!! (*However, this pregnancy will not take 9 months!)

TREKKER'S LOG

is looking for contributors to help bring about it's healthy delivery! NEEDED: Short stories, poems, comics, cartoons, artwork, and photos! For more details write;

Jeffrey A. Cooke 2532 Fountain Muskegon, MI 49441

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Just out- VIDEO BLUES by Cary Lee Baker. 16 pages of adult excitement for $1.50 ppd. Hand colored covers! Ask for a list of mini's available.

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125 Laralan Ave.
Frankfort, Ky., 40601

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NOT AVAILABLE COMICS
c/o Matt Feazell
Box 5803
Raleigh,N.C., 27650

FANTASTIC IMAGINATION #6 features interviews with Mel Allan, John McCormick (FREE PRESS, RETRO TIMES cartoonist), The Trashman ("Surfin' Bird"), Jim Starlin art, much more! Only $1.25 ppd.
FANTASTIC IMAGINATION
c/o Jim Thompson
1190 Sycamore
Rochester, Mich., 48063

APE TALES features top fan work. 16 mini offset pages. Sample copy, 75¢. Six issue subscription, $3.00. Also MOHILE DESTRUCT set #1-3 only $2.. See our review in FF #9. send to:
Brad Overpeker
5304 Fell Ave.
Stevens Point, Wisc., 54481

NEW FROM Great Lakes Comics!! MICHIGAN FANDOM TIMES #4-5, featuring comic reviews, articles, fanzine and mini comic reviews, comic strips and art, and much more. Only $1.25 ppd. Also available are MICHIGAN FANDOM TIMES #4&5, $1.25 ppd. each. Just released is I WANT MY BTVF, a 12 page mini by Allen Freeman and Olas Manns. 25¢ and a stamp.
BLANK PAGES #1, 12 page digest. 50¢ and a stamp. CAPTAIN IGNORAMUS, 16 page mini with hand colored cover. 75¢ ppd. Everything in this ad for $4.00 plus two stamps. Make checks payable to: Olas Manns, 2149 McGregor, Ypsilanti MI 48198.

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WILDCAT PRESS IS HOT TO TROT!!! Three new books are out this year, year...STUFFED ANIMAL STORIES is a 16 page digest with glossy covers featuring tales of little stuffed animals gone bad! $1.25
UNVALUEON CORPS is a twisted and funny 8 page mini jam by Jeff Gaither and Bill Fitts. 50¢
And last we have GORILLA GIRL QUARTERLY, an ape pin-up gallery and story from the critter-filled brain of Jerry Collins. Digest sized. 75¢ All books are postage paid-order from Wildcat Press, Box 167, 48 Shattuck Square, Berkley, CA 94709.

WRITERS! ARTISTS! Great Lakes Comics and 5 Star Productions are looking for individuals who wish to have their work published. Needed are: comic strips and stories of varying page lengths, cover illustrations and mini comic submissions. Anyone who has material and wishes to have it published is urged to please contact us. Our address is Great Lakes Comics c/o Olas Manns-editor, 2149 McGregor Avenue, Ypsilanti MI

BRAIN SHAKE #3, the first digest sized pub from Dark Horse Comix is now complete. It will be 32 offset pages featuring a colored stock bristle cover drawn by Hilary Barta (new inker for AMERICAN FLAGG!). Contributors for the debut issue include: Jamie Alder, Cary Baker, David Butterfield, Sean Cliver, Kevin Collier, Paul Curtis, Steve Fiorilla, Bill Fitts, Brad Foster, Allen Freeman, Jeff Gaither, Clay Geerdes, Steve Leach, David Miller, Audrey Parente, Brad Parnell, Willie Peppers, David Puckett, Michael Roden, Steve Tussey, Vojtko, Bob X, and more. BRAIN SHAKE will be $2.50 ppd. The first 100 copies will be numbered and signed by three of the artists, plus a free mini comic.
Dark Horse Comix, 2808 DeMel, Apt. 21, Louisville, KY 40214

AWESOME COMICS, a 36-40 page offset, digest sized book is in the works at Awesome Publications. The first issue features three stories including THE UNI-FORCE, a new superhero team by publisher Tim Belgarde; Fred Miller's THE LION (tentative); and a third is needed. Stories submitted should be self-contained. Only a two-issue continued story is allowed. For more information on submissions send to: Tim Belgarde, PO Box 574, Granite, ND 58366.

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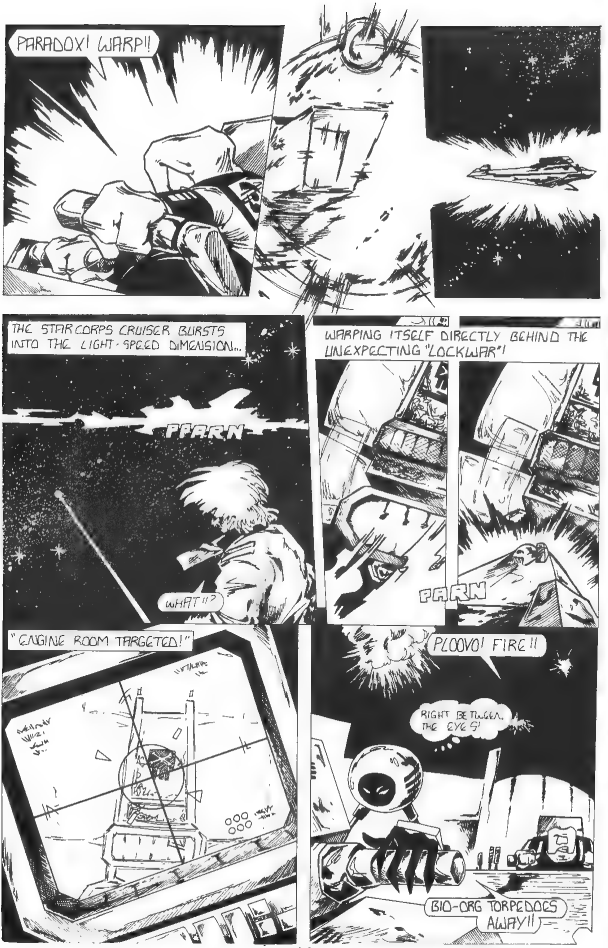
THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF..
THE Wheinis Bros.
SCRIPT: STUART KERR
PENCILS: GUY DAVIS
INKS: MARK BLOODWORTH
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
WE'RE STRANDED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OHIO DESERT!
ZOINK
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, FELIX. I AS VEGAS, MY ASS! HOW ARE WE GONNA GET THERE NOW? HOW ARE WE GONNA GET HOME!?
HE-EY! CHILL OUT, WALLY
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED. BUT GIVE ME A MINUTE FOR THE OL' FELIX WHEINIS ENGINUITY TO GET ROLLIN'.
HMMPH!
AHA!
I HAVE YOU NOW, YOU BOZOS!
"I'VE TRACKED YOU ACROSS THE INFINITE VOID. IT WAS YOUR FAULT THAT I DID NOT WIN THE UNIVERSE ON GALAXY-WIDE TELEVISION* FOR THIS YOU SHALL BE JUSTLY PUNISHED..."
I DECREE THAT YOU MUST BE BANISHED FOR THE REMAINDER OF YOUR PUBLISHED LIVES TO MINICOMIC-LAND!
HEY! WHO ARE YOU CALLING BOZOS?
ZOINK
ZOINK
* SEE FF #12 FOR ALL THE DETAILS!
TO BE CONTINUED IN..

...AND THAT IS THE TRUTH BEHIND THE ENIGMA. TRAGIC. YES. CRIMINAL? PERHAPS. WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW THAT THIS INFORMATION IS PUBLIC WILL BE UP TO THE AVIVERSAL COURTS TO DECIDE. FOR A.B.C. NEWS THIS IS BARBRA WALRUS WITH THE FINAL CHAPTER OF...
WHO IS TINKERTAYLON?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I LOVED IT! FANTASTIC INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING BARBRA!
I JUST WISH WE COULD RUN IT.
SORRY BARBRA, WE'LL HAVE TO KILL YOUR STORY.
WHAT? YOU CAN'T... TWO EPISODES HAVE ALREADY BEEN RUN!
BESIDES, THE INFORMATION I'VE UNCOVERED, HIS LOSS - HIS ASSOCIATION WITH DRAKE-STAR - IT'S NEWSWORTHY!
PERHAPS, BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
THE AVIAN CONFLICT ENDED SIX YEARS AGO! PEOPLE ARE SICK AND TIRED OF IT ALL!
TO RELEASE THIS WOULD OPEN A CAN OF WORMITES THAT PEOPLE JUST DON'T WANT NOW! I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S KILLED!
WE'LL SAY THAT YOU GOT CALLED AWAY ON A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT.
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO GET THIS INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC!
THERE IS! DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF "TALES FROM THE ANIVERSE"
ON SALE AT YOUR LOCAL COMICS SHOP.

AS THE GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY FALLS INTO DECAY, THE PIRATE EMPIRE, LED BY CAPTAIN ALBINO BLYDE, PLUNDERS COUNTLESS WORLDS. BUT ONE ORGANIZATION STANDS FIRM IN OPPOSITION... AN OUTBRANCH OF THE CELESTIAL FEDERATION KNOWN AS...

THE STAR CORPS
HIGH ABOVE THE NORTHERN SHIPPING LANES, TWO SHIPS HANG IN THE VOID...
THE CRIPPLED STAR CORPS CRUISER "PARADOX" AND THE PIRATE WARSHIP "LOCKWAR", ON WHICH ONLY MOMENTS BEFORE A DUEL HAD TAKEN PLACE...
A DUEL BETWEEN TWO OF THE MOST FAMOUS SPACE CAPTAINS IN THE SPIRAL GALAXY... A DUEL WITH AN UNFORTUNATE OUTCOME...
WELL, "CAPTAIN" GUANTO, IT SEEMS THE BATTLE IS MINE.. YOU KNOW THE RULES, YOU LOSE, YOU DIE, ALONG WITH THAT GARBAGE SCOW SHIP OF YOURS!
ENDINGS
PART/PLOT INKS ..ETERS
GUY DAVIS STU HERA


PARADOX! WARP!!
THE STARCORPS CRUISER BURSTS INTO THE LIGHT-SPEED DIMENSION...
PFARN
WHAT!!?
WARPING ITSELF DIRECTLY BEHIND THE UNEXPECTING "LOCKWAR"!
PARN
"ENGINE ROOM TARGETED!"
PLOOVO! FIRE!!
RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES!
BIO-ORG TORPEDOES AWAY!!

FOOSH
FOOSHW
KOOM
CRITH!!
MY GOD... THE SAILS..., GONE!!
LOCKWAR'S POWER SOURCE IS DOWN 70%, ERIKO. ITS ENERGY SAILS HAVE DISPERSED!!
GREAT JOB, SKADI, PREPARE THE TRANSPORTER THE CAPTAIN MAY BE IN TROUBLE

CLANK
HEH... I UNDERESTIMATED YOU QUONTO. YOU STILL HAVE A PIRATE'S CUNNING AND LUCK.
IT WAS A PIRATES' DUEL. ANYTHING GOES, REMEMBER?
YOU KEPT ME BUSY WHILE YOUR SHIP WAS REPAIRED AND READIED TO STRIKE... IMPRESSIVE.
HUH?
THE BATTLE IS YOURS, CAPTAIN. RETURN TO YOUR SHIP AND SAIL IN PEACE.
CHANGE OF HEART, BLYDE?
I'M A PIRATE, I HAVE MY HONOR. BUT BE WARNED... I SHALL NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOU AGAIN, NOR DO I INTEND TO LOSE!
WE'LL SEE, BLYDE...
...WE'LL SEE...
HEH
DAMN
MISTER POLLUX...!

PULL US AWAY FROM HER, ERIKO.
AYE, AYE.
WE'RE LEAVING?
I WON THE DUEL...
BUT WE CAN...
NO, PLOOVO... I HAVE MY HONOR. THERE WILL BE OTHER BATTLES.
BUT... MON COPTAIN BLYDE, I... I... I... HE... I...
DON'T TALK, MR POLLUX, JUST SAIL.
BUT... I...
WHERE'D I PUT THAT PLANK?

WHERE TO "SKIP"?
CRACK
DON'T CALL ME... EH?
SIGH
WARP IT, BOYS!
YOU GOT IT, 'SKIP'!
Y'KNOW, YOU'RE A BAD INFLUENCE ON THE KID...
THE TWO SHIPS SLOWLY LIMP AWAY INTO THE ENDLESS VOID...
PPPPPARNNN
EACH ONE HOMEWORLD BOUND...
THE END

BEYOND THE FIELDS WE KNOW...

This page is dedicated in loving memory to the man who brought me into this world, who never really understood my fantasies or love of literature in general, but never discouraged them either. It was he who foot the bill for my first fantasy collection. My Dad died December 14th 1945. I miss him as I shall, so bear with me. This one's for him. I know he is at peace and that he is truly, now and forever, beyond the fields we know...

Well folks, here it is 12:00 AM, the ninth day of January, this year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eightysix. "Ye Good Ol' Ed" called me tonight to put a burr in my britches. Just like him, I told him I appreciated the aid. Actually, I had been aware of the time, but it's just that realized that in my last article I confined myself to a certain structure for at least the next four or five installments. This in itself isn't bad. One should plan ahead. But in researching my outline I found I would have to give a course in literary criticism if I were to truly do my thesis justice. I have decided only to skim, and I do mean skim (is there a lesser term?) the surface. I find that I want to get on with actually talking about various books and authors, but first we must see what it is that makes good fantasy.

It is here, however, that the difficulty arises. Although the books on the subject of fantasy literature are few by comparison, they all have a different opinion as to what makes good fantasy. There are, of course, different sub-genres within the genre of fantasy itself (using the term *genre* is like saying *panties* instead of *underwear*.) No matter, we have searched the vast sea and decided to go for the most part with Timmerman's view of fantasy.

As we said last time, one of the first elements of fantasy is story. Someone defined story for me as "taking an idea and going somewhere with it." I like this definition for many reasons, but only one I will elaborate on. Every type of fiction has a storyline. That's what fiction is: the telling of a story. So what makes fantasy different? In fantasy, unlike many other forms of modern fiction "story is always the central pole about which aesthetic exellences such as internal richness, complication, imagery and harmony may evolve" (Temmerman). The centrality of story is what seperates fantasy from the several allied genres in fiction. Remember our definition of taking an idea and going somewhere with it. This is what fantasy does. It goes somewhere and allows you to tag along. It is not inspired, nor is it influenced by modern novelistic techniques such as: stream of consciousness, the novel of surfaces, topical novels, historical novels, political novels, etc. Fantasy still relies on the age old tradition of storytelling.

All literature has meaning. Some even consider no meaning (much of modern fiction) as meaning. But fantasy does not force a meaning upon us. It narrates to us of people and places at times both far out and real, but always in reach of our emotions. It creates within us a desire and an intercourse with our minds that gives birth to meaning. Modern fiction aborts this process by spoonfeeding us. The author has a point an and it is the only point. The characters are so flat and "real" that we do not *seat*, we merely *live* for a moment in their time which is nothing but a mirror of our own. Rarely is their a concern in modern fiction for moral responsibility or any power other than the almighty holding the book or, better still, writing the book. Fantasy stories serve the purposes of the myths of ol' as Temmerman says, "Fantasy is a kind of myth, a story which stands in opposition to the ironclad pragmatism of the age and seeks to return man to a sense of origins and divine significance. (And here's the difference). It affirms a meaning which is the ground of reality for humankind." It is a story which draws us in to bring us out anew with visions of possibilities within our own, often grim, realities. Some would argue that this is not a true picture to have, that modern "realistic fiction" is more down to earth, dealing with the harsh realities. This may be true, but it is this type of tale, this mocking bird cry, this hyperbolic parroting of our realities that keeps us "down" to earth and let's us see nothing but the hard reality. Give me something that brings me hope, that let's me dream. I'll worry about how I deal with reality.

Can you imagine reading any one of today's top 10 bestsellers to your children at bedtime? What view of life do they offer? The most "adult" fantasy story is as good for a child as it is the adult.

Temmerman aptly sums up what the type of story in fantsy literature does for us:

The hope, the anticipation of fantasy and mythic literature is that by bringing a part larger than man but apparent through man to bear upon this world, we can once again kindle the light of the human spirit. The nature of the power...is constituted of enduring and indomitable values such as heroism, chivalry, a sense of over evil.

To this I can only add a hearty ho-hef and bid you a fond ta-ta! for now.

-R.H.

P.S. I am aware that story consists of: plot, characters, theme, point of view, symbols and irony, emotion and humor, conflict of some sort, rising action, climax and denouement. But you can get that stuff from any literature book. See you next time.

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